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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 06897 211747Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------220637Z 048325 /13
R 211738Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7581
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BONN 06897

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, UR, GW, WB
SUBJECT: NEXT ROUND OF FRG-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS

REFS: (A) BONN 5763; (B) MOSCOW 4128

1. OFFICIALS AT THE GERMAN FOREIGN OFFICE HAVE TOLD US THAT BONDARENKO WILL COME TO BONN NEXT WEEK TO CONTINUE THE EXCHANGES WITH THE GERMANS BEGUN DURING VAN WELL'S VISIT TO MOSCOW (REFTELS). THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD ACTUALLY NOT EXPECTED HIM TO COME THIS SOON, AND THE GERMANS ARE A LITTLE UNCERTAIN AS TO WHAT HE MIGHT SAY.

2. THERE IS NO CONSENSUS WITHIN THE FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY AS TO THE OUTCOME OF VAN WELL'S VISIT. THE GENERAL TENDENCY IS TO ASSESS THE SOVIET ATTITUDE AS "INTERESTED," BUT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM
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WHETHER THE SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON ANY KEY ISSUE. GENSCHER'S STAFF TENDS TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE PESSIMISTIC THAN VAN WELL WAS.

3. GENSCHER'S AIDE KINKEL BELIEVES THE THREE AGREEMENTS IN WHICH A BERLIN CLAUSE IS AT ISSUE SHOULD BE SET ASIDE IN ORDER NOT TO HAVE THOSE PROPOSED AGREEMENTS

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REMAIN AT THE CENTER OF THE BONN-MOSCOW RELATIONSHIP. KINKEL BELIEVES THE GERMANS SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON SUCH ISSUES AS TRADE (BUT NO NEW CREDITS), EMIGRATION, CSCE AND MBFR. OTHER OFFICIALS, INCLUDING BLECH AND VAN WELL, ARE STILL INCLINED TO PURSUE AT LEAST ONE OR TWO OF THE THREE AGREEMENTS IN THE HOPE THAT SOME FORMULA GOVERNING A BERLIN ROLE CAN YET BE FOUND. ALL RECOGNIZE THAT, IF THE THREE AGREEMENTS ARE NOT SIGNED, THE FRG WILL HAVE TO REMAIN HIGHLY VIGILANT IN ORDER TO AVOID HAVING ITS LEGAL POSITION UNDERCUT BY SOVIET CONTACTS WITH GERMAN INSTITUTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE CULTURAL FIELD.

4. THE GERMANS ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT BREZHNEV'S HEAITH. SOVIET OFFICIALS ARE OPENLY DISCUSSING THIS MATTER HERE, EXPRESSING UNCERTAINTY ABOUT ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE POLICY. ONE MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF THE SOVIET CONSULATE AT BERLIN TOLD AN FRG OFFICIAL THAT, IN ADDITION TO HIS KNOWN HEALTH PROBLEMS, BREZHNEV SUFFERS FROM SHARP PERIODIC PAINS OF UNDETERMINED ORIGIN. ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOW LEAKED AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS SUBSEQUENTLY OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THAT GENSCHER WILL GO TO MOSCOW IN MIDDLE JUNE IN ORDER TO PLAN FOR BREZHNEV'S VISIT HERE, SENIOR FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS ARE BEGINNING TO QUESTION WHETHER BREZHNEV'S HEALTH WILL PERMIT THE TRIP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, UR, GE, WB, (VAN WELL, GUENTHER), (BONDARENKO)
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